

**MINUTES  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COMMISSION ON EMS  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2000  
LOS ANGELES**

**Comissioners Present:**

Dorothy Bizzini, Ron S. Blaul, Chuck Baucom, EMT-P, Robert P. David, Babatunde A. Jinadu, M.D., Ramon W. Johnson, M.D., Sterling Johnson, EMT-P, Robert Kaufman, EMT-P,  
Stephen J. Maiero, EMT-P, Lou Meyer, Janice M. Ogar, R.N., Michael Rossini, M.D., Angelo Salvucci, M.D., Tim Sturgill, M.D.

**Commissioners Absent:**

David B. Hoyt, M.D., and Blair Sadler

**EMS Authority Present:**

Richard E. Watson, Daniel R. Smiley, Nancy Steiner, Roselyn Cope, Michele Handewith, Sheila Keller, Richard McSherry, Sheila Martin, Bonnie Sinz, Miranda Swanson, Connie Telford, Sean Trask, and Lois Williams

**Audience Present:**

John Brown, M.D., Emergency Medical Services Medical Directors Association of California/ San Francisco EMS Agency  
Debbie Becker, ETAP  
Gerald Strouse, California Fire Chiefs Association – Southern Section/Torrance Fire Department  
Warren Davis, California Fire Chiefs Association – Northern Section  
David Frelinger, Los Angeles City Fire Department  
Bob O'Brien, California Fire Chiefs Association – Southern Section/Fremont Fire Department  
Michael Frenn, Solano EMS Co-operative  
Pam West, Santa Clara County EMS Agency  
Larry Karsteadt, North Coast EMS Agency  
Bonny Martignoni, Coastal Valleys EMS Agency  
Doug Buchanan, Mountain Valley EMS Agency  
Todd Meeker, Alhambra Fire Department  
Pete Lawrence, Oceanside Fire Department  
Vickie Pinette, Sierra- Sac Valley EMS Agency  
Wendee Riegner, Ventura County Fire Department  
Jane Elder, R.N., Orange County Fire Department  
Cece Waite, R.N., Orange County EMS Agency  
Pat Nunez, City of San Diego EMS Agency  
Debra G. Durphy, City of Escondido Fire Department  
Gwen Jones, San Diego County EMS Agency  
Michael Osur, Riverside County EMS Agency  
Kevin White, California Professional Firefighters

Sabina Imrie, California Fire Chiefs Association – Northern  
Section/Livermore/Pleasanton Fire Department  
Reed Bingham, Long Beach Fire Department  
Robert Lashier, Sierra Madre Fire Department/Glendale College  
Steve Andriese, Mountain Valley EMS Agency  
Diane Fisher, Inland Counties EMS Agency  
Andrea Everett, Los Angeles Fire Department/QIS  
Mike Lawery, Ventura City Fire Department  
Pat Kramm, Alameda County EMS Agency  
David Mintz, AMR/Southern California Region  
Kevin O'Laughlin, NorCal EMS Agency  
Barbara Brodfuehrer, Ventura County EMS Agency  
Leonard Inch, Sierra-Sac Valley EMS Agency  
Daniel Lynch, Fresno/Kings/Madera EMS Agency  
Tim Williams, Fresno/Kings/Madera EMS Agency  
Virginia Hastings, Los Angeles County EMS Agency  
Debbie Notturmo, Rialto Fire Department  
Richard Elliott, California Fire Chiefs Association – Southern California  
Ray Navarro, California Fire Chiefs Association – Southern California/Beverly Hills Fire  
Department  
Cathy Ord, Long Beach Fire Department  
Bob Eisenman, M.D., Kaiser Permanente  
David Nevins, California Ambulance Association  
Pat Tomlin, AMR  
Nancy Lapolla, Santa Barbara County EMS Agency  
Jim Andrews, M.D., Fresno/Kings/Madera EMS Agency & Merced County EMS Agency  
Jane Nutting/Wyeth/Ayerst Laboratories  
Raleigh Harris, Torrance Fire Department  
Dan Speiss, NorCal EMS Agency  
Chris LeVenton, Monterey County EMS Agency  
Bob Cordray, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Office of the State  
Fire Marshall, SFT  
Meredith Muneau, Ventura City  
Steve Frank, Ojai Ambulance, Inc.  
Jim McPhearson, Santa Clara County EMS Agency  
Jeff Eastman, California Fire Chiefs Association  
Cory Tipton, Los Angeles City Fire Department  
Jim Pointer, M.D., Alameda County EMS Agency

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Blaul at 10:14 a.m.

**I. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2000 AGENDA**

**Action: Moved (Johnson), seconded (David), passed to amend the Agenda.**

The Agenda was amended. Agenda Item VII was moved to the first item in place of Agenda Item IV on the Agenda. Commissioner Ogar requested that Dr. Tharrat's presentation be added to the Agenda.

## **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2000 MINUTES**

**Action: Moved (Johnson), seconded (Baucom), passed to approve the June 28, 2000 Minutes with the change.**

### **Discussion:**

On Page 5 of the Minutes under Section VIII, PIPP should be changed to PEPP.

## **III. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Action: Moved (Baucom), seconded (Ogar), passed to pull the Trauma Advisory Report off of the Consent Calendar.**

### **Discussion:**

Virginia Hastings, Administrator for the Los Angeles County EMS Agency gave a brief overview to the Commission on the Trauma Crisis that has developed in Los Angeles County. The Trauma system in Los Angeles County is underfunded. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has offered \$8.5 million to help the situation; however, they actually need \$17 million. Virginia reminded the Commission that when a trauma system goes down it affects 10 million people. She suggested that a legislative coalition be developed to look to the State for a stable source of funding. Virginia mentioned that Leonard Inch has received a grant for the EMS Authority to develop a White Paper for the need to fund a Statewide Trauma System. This information should be beneficial to all trauma systems throughout the State.

Leonard Inch was asked to give an update on his Trauma Funding Project. Leonard indicated that he is having a difficult time finding out the cost of imaging in the State. The next step in his grant is to identify the Assembly and Senate Districts that are not covered by a trauma system. He plans to develop a map of the Legislative Districts that would show coverage and those without coverage. This is a good strategy to initiate changes needed in the trauma system development.

Commissioner Ray Johnson expressed his concern that the issue is becoming diluted because many groups are working independently. He encouraged the EMS Authority take a leadership role for a legislative cure.

**Action: Moved (Ogar) seconded (Strugill) passed to accept the Trauma Report.**

## **IV. STATUS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM PROJECT**

Chairman Blaul recommended and it was approved that this Item be carried over to the next EMS Commission meeting in November.

## **V. UPDATE ON THE VISION PROCESS**

### **Discussion:**

Commissioner Sturgill gave a presentation on the Vision Funding Group. He discussed the Ambulance Fee Schedule that was put out for public comment by the HCFA. The comment period ends on November 13, 2000. The nationwide expense for ambulance service for 1998 allowable charges was \$2.1 billion. California received \$208 million or 9.9% allowable charges in the nation. Los Angeles County received \$50 million of the \$208 million or 23.7 % of California's total or 2.4% of the nationwide allowable charges. There will be a 10% reduction across the board. The potential impact will be \$20 million less. Los Angeles County will receive approximately \$5 million less in allowable charges.

Logical consequences will be that cost shifting will take place. There will be no money for first response. Other consequences may include no response, response delays, request for an increase of the base rate or an increase in the rate calculation. The ambulance fee schedule does not represent the cost of providing ambulance service in California consistent with our guidelines, regulations and statutes.

Commissioner Sturgill recommended that a letter be sent to the Governor by the Commission addressing the effects the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule would have on the State and that the ambulance fees are set too low.

**Action: Moved (Meyer), seconded (Maiero), passed to send the Governor, California Congressmen and the two State Senators a letter from the Vision Funding Lead.**

Commissioner Jinadu asked that the motion include California Congressmen and the two State Senators.

Chairman Blaul recommended that other constituent groups also send their own letters to the Governor and their Congressmen.

Steve Andriese, the Data Vision Group Lead, gave an update on the progress of his group.

Debbie Becker, the Education and Personnel Lead gave an update on the progress of this group. They have been focusing on ALS/BLS education standards throughout the nation. They are making a comparison of national curriculum versus the state curriculum at all levels. They have also been working on developing a glossary of definitions that are uniform in California's regulations.

Commissioner Ogar, the Injury Prevention Group Lead, indicated that the group is working on developing ways to capture standardized data sets for other entities to use; developing a clearinghouse or registry of patient outcomes.

Carol Biancalana, the Access Group Staff Lead, indicated that the group has been working on a position paper on Universal Access including how Access is affected by DMV regulations and certification issues.

Chairman Blaul, Governance Group Co-lead, indicated that his group has been working exclusively on Objectives 15 and 16. At the last meeting they developed a model. It was distributed to members of the group with the intent of sending it out to interested parties for comments. It will be up on the webpage under Governance.

Miranda Swanson, the Vision Project Manager, spoke to the Commission regarding the upcoming November 30-December 1, 2000 Vision Conference. The Vision Leads along with 6 members of each committee will have their travel expenses paid for the Conference. Additional blocks of rooms have been acquired for the conference at nearby hotels. They are the Raddison, the Cathedral Hill, and the Galleria hotels. Following the conference, an update to the blue book will be developed which will include the current status of each group and reflect how each group is addressing the NHTSA recommendations. She anticipates the release to be in January 2001.

## **VI. REPORT ON TRIAL STUDIES**

Ventura County EMS Agency's Trial Study on EMT-Is Establishing Peripheral IVs Under the Direction of Supervising Paramedics.

**Action: Moved (Salvucci), seconded (Johnson), passed that this be incorporated in the EMT-I regulations specifically the EMT-I field operations to start IVs when under a paramedic's supervision be added to the EMT-I optional scope of practice and refer to the existing EMT-I Task Force scope of practice committee to include in the regulatory package. 10 Ayes; 1 Nay.**

### **Discussion:**

Commissioner Salvucci gave the final report from Ventura County. He thanked Meredith Mundell of Ventura College School of Prehospital and Emergency Medicine and Steve Frank, President of Ojai Ambulance, Inc. The premise was: could EMT-Is paired with a paramedic be enhanced by being a part of the team if allowed to do specific advanced skills? They found that the EMT-Is were a little more successful at starting IVs than the paramedics. This report concluded that this is a relatively easy to teach performed skill which does not require a lengthy period for training or a large amount of maintenance and is legally appropriate for EMT-Is. The recommendation of the Scope of Practice Committee is to incorporate this in the regulations.

After the motion, Richard Watson recommended that the changes to the regulations be referred to the EMT-I Task Force for consideration to be incorporated in EMT-I Regulation revisions.

Chairman Blaul asked how long it would take to revise the regulations. Nancy Steiner, Chief, Paramedic Program, indicated that the OAL process takes approximately two years.

Commissioner Ogar asked if certain pieces of the regulations could be reviewed by small committees thus speeding up the regulation process. Ms. Steiner responded that it could be done; however, it is the OAL regulatory process that requires numerous open comments periods rendering the process to be very lengthy. There have been occasions in the past where advanced skills for EMT-Is were done in trial studies and the Commission voted to continue those until the regulations were revised.

Chairman Blaul asked if the Commission could recommend that the trial study conclusions be added to an optional scope. Ms. Steiner answered that they could *recommend* but that they could not authorize the addition to the optional scope of practice. Additions to the EMT-I optional scope of practice can only be done through regulations unlike the optional scope of practice process for EMT-IIs and Paramedics.

Daniel Smiley, Chief Deputy Director asked for clarification on whether or not the Commission wanted to extend the Ventura County Trial Study.

Commissioner Meyer indicated that they were not extending the Ventura County Trial Study.

**Action: Moved (S. Johnson), seconded (Meyer), passed to close the debate.**

### **Sierra County Alternative EMT Trial Study**

**Action: Moved (Ogar), seconded (Salvucci), passed unanimously to discontinue Sierra County's first Alternative EMT trial study which includes IV insertion and glucose advanced skills for EMT-Is.**

There have been two Sierra County Trial Studies. This trial study before the Commission today is the first trial study.

Mr. Smiley gave an overview of the trial study. The results showed that during this period they had 123 total attempts of IVs at this time. The success rate was a little less than 70%. This was similar to the study by Dr. Salvucci. They also showed an IV failure rate of 9%. The Commission may accept the report and allow two trial studies to continue or they may follow the recommendation of the EMDAC Scope of Practice Committee and discontinue the first trial study.

Commissioner Salvucci clarified that the EMDAC Scope of Practice Committee recommends that they terminate the first trial study. That over five years there has been no known substantial benefits to the patients with this advanced skill.

Commissioner Meyer asked if there is a like study going on in Sierra County with no IV insertion.

Commissioner Salvucci indicated that there is a like study with even more skills added to the scope of practice. That study is still going on. EMDAC is recommending discontinuing the IV and glucose study only.

Chairman Blaul indicated that he recalled the second study was to be initiated in keeping with Imperial County's study.

## **VII. MEDICARE AMBULANCE FEE SCHEDULE PRESENTED BY PETE LAWRENCE**

### **Discussion:**

Pete Lawrence's overview of the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule proposed by HCFA was moved to the first item on the Agenda. He explained to the Commission the determining factors behind the decisions that were made by the HCFA Advisory Group. He had been a representative on this group. His detailed overview also indicated that California would have approximately a 10% cut in Medicare reimbursements for ambulance charges. This decrease in funds could have a devastating impact on the EMS system in California. There are quite a few inequities that exist in the proposed regulations; however, given the parameters the advisory group was to work within, these regulations were a good product.

## **VIII. REPORT ON INTERFACILITY TASK FORCE**

Richard Watson, Interim Director announced that the Interfacility Task Force would not be able to get started until sometime in the next year. Ideally, members of the Task Force would be contacted in December and the first meeting would take place in January.

Commissioner Ray Johnson asked that staff of the EMS Authority report to the Commission on the progress of the Interfacility Task Force and included it on the Agenda each Commission meeting.

## **IX. REPORT ON HOSPITAL OVERCROWDING/AMBULANCE DIVERSION**

Because of time constraints, this item was referred to the next Commission Meeting in November.

## **X. ON CALL PANEL ISSUE**

Because of time constraints, this item was referred to the next Commission Meeting in November.

## **XI. EMS AUTHORITY PROGRESS REPORT**

Chairman Blaul indicated that the Progress Report would not be addressed unless there were comments from the audience.

Richard Watson, Interim Director, indicated that he would like to address the issue of the use of amiodarone. There have been requests to add the drug to local EMS agencies' paramedic local optional scope of practice. The drug will be approved. However, Mr. Watson has not decided if it will be added as a Category II drug or as a drug for use in trial studies. At this time, he has not been able to review the material provided to him. He intends to do this before he makes his decision. One of his concerns with amiodarone is that he cannot mandate that data be collected in the use of this drug if it were approved as a local optional scope of practice. He would have authority to require data collection if the use of the drug is required to be a trial study.

Commissioner Meyer indicated that we do so much that we have no research to justify what we are doing is beneficial to the patient. The gathering of the data would be an appropriate way to conduct the use of this drug. He would support Dr. Salvucci and EMDAC in their recommendation to have the use of amiodarone as a trial study.

Dr. Steven Tharratt, Medical Consultant to the EMS Authority, indicated that the data collection on how the drug is used and benefits to the people of California in an EMS System would be more appropriately done in a trial study. Whereas, as a Category IIb drug there is no provision for EMDAC to review or to mandate data collection.

Commissioner Johnson indicated he would have to agree with Dr. Tharratt's recommendation and move the drug into the trial study process.

Richard Watson indicated he would be the one making the decision and in fairness to all parties he would be reviewing all the information before he makes his final decision.

Chairman Blaul recognized Michael Osur of Riverside County EMS to address the Commission. Mr. Osur indicated that he was representing both Riverside County and Alameda County and they would provide the data necessary for data collection. The trial study process can be long and tedious and he would like to see the use of this drug be in the Category II local optional scope of practice.

Commissioner Salvucci indicated that providing an 18-month report and a 36-month report is not an onerous process.

Chairman Blaul addressed the Commission in which he indicated that he would be willing to entertain a motion that would be a recommendation to the Authority Director.



**Action: Moved (Ogar), seconded (Jinadu) to recommend to the Authority that if the drug, amiodarone, is approved, it be in the format of the trial study process. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **XII. Open Comments**

Kathleen Klam, addressed the Commission regarding traffic calming devices. She informed the Commission that the traffic calming devices are being added daily to local communities and cost critical time when emergency rescue vehicles encounter these devices. She asked that the local constituents be recognized when the issues come up in their local community as it can be a life threatening issue. Her group has a website [www.secondscount.org](http://www.secondscount.org) that has been dedicated to addressing the seriousness of the problem. Two community studies have taken place across the country, one in Colorado and one in Texas. There are links from their webpage to these studies. She asked if the Commission would address this issue in the future.

Chairman Blaul indicated that he did receive information on this issue. Traffic calming devices are an important issue in the world of community development and development planning. California Fire Chiefs do have a huge interest in this not only on the EMS side but on the fire suppression side as well.

Commissioner Salvucci indicated that he had not received any material related to traffic calming devices. He asked that the information be provided to the other Commissioners, also.

Ms. Klam indicated that she would get their addresses and send the information to the Commissioners.

Chairman Blaul recognized Raleigh Harris, who is retiring today, after over 25 years of service and wanted to adjourn the meeting acknowledging his 18 years of contributions to the EMS fire issues.

Richard Watson, informed the Commission that they may not know the reason why Commissioner Dorothy Bizzini missed the June meeting. While landing in South America, she was involved in a plane crash in which she was injured and was very lucky to have survived. He thanked Dorothy for her dedication and her attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.